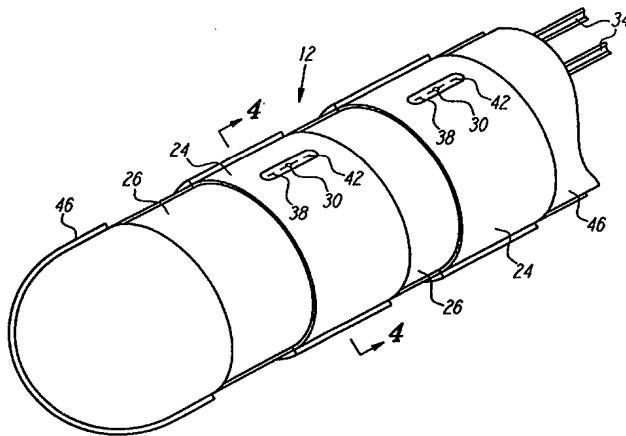




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(54) Title: SURFACE COATINGS FOR CATHETERS, DIRECT CONTACTING DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC DEVICES

**(57) Abstract**

A catheter including a distal end assembly having an external surface coating. Where the distal end assembly includes electrodes or other electrical components, the coating is preferably electrically conductive. Such an electrically conductive coating is formed from a material comprising regenerated cellulose, although other materials such as a hydrogel or a plastic having an electrically conductive component are utilizable. Where the distal end assembly includes optical or ultrasonic components, the regenerated cellulose coating is suitable. The robustness of the surface coating permits the manufacture and utilization of electrode configurations that are formed on a non-conductive base member by processes such as pad printing, vapor deposition, ion beam assisted deposition, electroplating and other printed circuit manufacturing processes. Additionally, because the surface coating produces a smooth outer surface to the distal end assembly, lead wires and temperature sensing devices can be bonded to the exterior surface of electrodes and then coated to produce a smooth outer surface; thus providing a simple, inexpensive manufacturing method for the attachment of such components to the electrodes.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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